

**Shortage of flight instructors**

†2118. MISS ANUSUIYA UKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what efforts are being made to meet shortage of pilots and flight instructors;
- (b) whether facilities regarding their training would be enhanced;
- (c) whether assistance from other flying clubs would also be sought for their training apart from the Indira Gandhi National Flying Academy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Government has taken steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots by conditionally increasing the age-limit of 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots. Further, in order to meet the shortage of flying instructors, Government has amended the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for Chief Flying Instructor (CFI)/Pilot Instructor Incharge (PII) so as to enable experienced serving and retired Civil and Defence Pilots in the country to join as CFI/PII. Foreign Licence validation is also permitted for Pilots who pass prescribed examinations conducted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation to become eligible to work as CFI/PII.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to upgrade and modernise the training infrastructure at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) by increasing its training capacity from 40 at present to 100 pilot cadets per annum. Besides, a world class flying training institute is planned, as a Joint Venture, under the aegis of Airports Authority of India, at Gondia, Maharashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The flying clubs in the country have been training pilots for many years. To enhance their capacity, Government, in the Annual Plan 2006-07, has made a provision of Rs. 12.79 crores as Grants-in-Aid to Aero Club of India (ACI) for procurement of aircraft to be allotted to identified

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

needy flying clubs, approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence.

**Pilot training school at Gondia**

†2119. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in view of acute shortage of pilots in the country, a decision has been taken to set up a state-of-art pilot training school in Gondia district of Vidarbha;
- (b) if so, whether collaboration have been made with any foreign company therein;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when this training school would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to select a suitable Joint Venture Partner, Expression of Interest (EoI) were invited by Airports Authority of India on global basis and seven bidders have been shortlisted, which include foreign companies also. Request for Proposal (RFP) have been issued to these bidders.

(d) Upgradation of infrastructure at Birsi airport in Gondia is expected to be complete by June, 2007. However, formation of the Joint Venture Company and other work of the Training Institute will be completed depending upon the response received from the prospective Joint Venture Partner.

**New Airport at Karwar**

2120. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up an airport at Karwar in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether other airports in Karnataka, particularly, Mangalore airport, is upgraded to facilitate operation of more high capacity international flights; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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